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REC'D AUG 14 2003

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/684,856

10/06/2000

Reginald Hunter

AMAT/3083.P6/FET/FET/DV

2780

32588

7590

08/08/2003

APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.
2881 SCOTT BLVD. M/S 2061
SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

COMPUTER ENTERED
AUG 14 2003

EXAMINER

SMITH, ZANDRA V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2003

OFC 11-8-03
Dead 2-8-04

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

COPY



Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/684,856	Applicant(s) HUNTER ET AL.	
Examiner Zandra V. Smith	Art Unit 2877	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 20-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4-9, 11-12
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:



Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No. 09/684,856	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination HUNTER ET AL.	
Examiner Zandra V. Smith	Art Unit 2877	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-4,626,101	12-1986	Ogawa et al.	356/237.2
	B	US-4,644,172	02-1987	Sandland et al.	250/548
	C	US-5,127,726	07-1992	Moran, Kevin E.	356/237.2
	D	US-5,742,395	04-1998	Biedermann et al.	356/237.5
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
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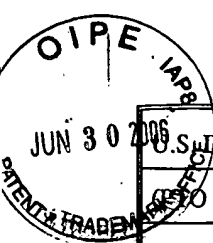
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	N					
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	S					
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NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.



U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office	Docket No.	Serial No.
USPTO Form 1449 (modified)	AMAT/3083.P6FET/FET/DV	UNKNOWN
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT	Applicant	
(Use several sheets if necessary)	REGINALD HUNTER, ET AL.	
	Filing Date	Group
	HEREWITH	UNKNOWN

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09/684856

U.S. Patent Documents

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
ZS	AA	4,441,124	04/03/1984	Heebner et al.	GOIN		
	AB	4,449,818	05/22/1984	Yamaguchi et al.			
	AC	4,772,126	09/20/1988	Allemand et al.			
	AD	4,893,932	01/16/1990	Knollenberg			
	AE	4,941,980	07/17/1990	Halavee et al.			
	AF	4,969,748	11/13/1990	Crowley et al.			
	AG	5,120,034	06/09/1992	Van Engelen et al.			
	AH	5,177,559	01/05/1993	Batchelder et al.			
	AI	5,483,138	01/09/1996	Shmookler et al.			
	AJ	5,563,798	10/08/1996	Berken et al.			
ZS	AK	5,659,172	08/19/1997	Wagner et al.			

Foreign Patent Documents

Translation

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No
ZS	AL	WO 99/56113	11/04/1999	WIPO	GOIN	21/89	X	
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AQ	
	AR	
	AS	

Examiner <i>Zuehl</i>	Date Considered 7/21/03
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office		Docket No.	Serial No.
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LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT		Applicant	
(Use several sheets if necessary)		REGINALD HUNTER, ET AL.	
		Filing Date	Group
		HEREWITH	UNKNOWN

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U.S. Patent Documents

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35	AT	5,748,305	05/05/1998	Shimono et al.			
	AU	5,797,317	08/25/1998	Lahat et al.			
30	AV	5,822,213	10/13/1998	Huynh			
	AW						
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	BA						
	BB						
	BC						
	BD						

Foreign Patent Documents

Translation

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	BG							
	BH							
	BI							

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	BJ	
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Examiner <i>Green. S.L.</i>	Date Considered <i>7/24/03</i>
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office (PTO Form 1449 modified)		Docket No. AMAT/3083.P6/FET/F ET/DV	Serial No. 09/684,856
SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT		Applicant Hunter et al.	Confirmation No.:
(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date October 6, 2000	Group
Examiner			

U.S. Patent Documents

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Applicant(s) Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
38	A1	5,233,191	08/03/1993	Noguchi et al.	250	306	04/02/1991
	A2	5,274,434	12/28/1993	Morioka et al.	356	237	10/17/1991
	A3	5,479,252	12/26/1995	Worster et al.	356	237	06/17/1993
	A4	5,909,276	06/01/1999	Kinney et al.	356	237	03/30/1998
38	A5	5,940,175	08/17/1999	Sun	356	237.3	11/01/1996
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	A8						
	A9						
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Foreign Patent Documents

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38	C1	European Search Report Dated December 12, 2000.
	C2	
	C3	

Examiner

Date Considered 7/24/03

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U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office (PTO Form 1449 modified)				Docket No. APPM/3083.P6		Serial No. 09/684,856	
SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT				Applicant Hunter		Confirmation No.:	
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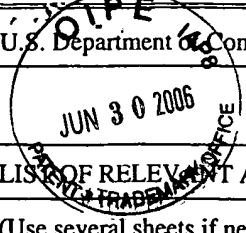
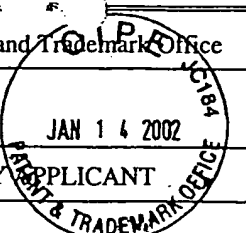
JUN 30 2000
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Applicant(s) Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
38	A1	5,834,758	11-10-1998	Trulson, et al.	250	201.2	09-04-1996
	A2	5,781,230	07-14-1998	Nguyen, et al.	348	128	01-29-1997
	A3	5,737,072	04-07-1998	Emery, et al.	356	73	10-04-1996
	A4	5,465,152	11-07-1995	Bilodeau, et al.	356	371	06-03-1994
	A5	5,058,178	10-15-1991	Ray	382	8	12-21-1989
	A6	4,920,385	04-24-1990	Clarke, et al.	356	237	04-06-1989
	A7	4,499,595	02-12-1985	Masaitis, et al.	382	9	10-01-1981

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38	B1	99/00661	01/07/1999	WO	G01N	21/64	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	B2	0 638 801 A	02/15/1995	EP	G01N	21/88	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	C1	Search Report from EPO Appl. No. 00307704.7, dated March 1, 2001
Examiner	Date Considered 7/21/03	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office						Docket No.		Serial No.	
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LIST OF RELEVANT ART CITED BY APPLICANT						Applicant			
(Use several sheets if necessary)						Reginald Hunter			
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						October 6, 2000		2877	
U.S. Patent Documents									
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate		
30	A1	5,903,342	05/11/1999	Yatsugake, et al.	356	237.4	04/08/1996		
	A2	5,889,593	05/30/1999	Bareket	356	445	02/26/1997		
	A3	5,883,710	03/16/1999	Nikoonahad, et al.	356	237.2	07/10/1995		
	A4	5,861,952	01/19/1999	Tsuji, et al.	356	349	12/02/1992		
	A5	5,818,576	10/06/1998	Morishige, et al.	356	237	11/07/1996		
	A6	5,805,278	09/08/1998	Danko	356	237	06/18/1996		
	A7	5,801,824	09/01/1998	Henley	356	237	11/25/1996		
	A8	5,774,222	06/30/1998	Maeda, et al.	356	394	10/06/1995		
	A9	5,699,447	12/16/1997	Alumot, et al.	382	145	11/12/1991		
	A10	5,694,214	12/02/1997	Watanabe, et al.	356	237	12/18/1996		
	A11	5,663,569	09/2/1997	Hayano	250	559.45	10/05/1994		
	A12	5,644,393	07/01/1997	Nakamura, et al.	356	237	07/10/1996		
30	A13	5,637,881	06/10/1997	Burghard, et al.	250	573	04/11/1995		
Foreign Patent Documents									
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		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Yes	No	
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	B2								
OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)									
30	C1	U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/173,669, <u>Detection of Wafer Fragments in a Wafer Processing Apparatus</u> , filed on October 15, 1998							
Examiner Zhu, Sh			Date Considered 7/24/03						
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.									

U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office				Docket No.		Serial No.	
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LIST OF RELEVANT ART CITED BY APPLICANT				Applicant			
(Use several sheets if necessary)				Reginald Hunter			
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S	A14	5,486,919	01/23/1996	Tsuji, et al.	356	349	06/15/1993
	A15	5,463,459	10/31/1995	Morioka, et al.	356	237	04/16/1993
	A16	5,416,594	05/16/1995	Gross, et al.	356	237	07/20/1993
	A17	4,898,471	02/06/1990	Stonestrom, et al.	356	394	09/19/1988
	A18						
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Examiner			Date Considered				
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SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT		Applicant Hunter	Confirmation No. Unknown
(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date 10/06/2000	Group 2877
Examiner Unknown			

U.S. Patent Documents

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JS	A1	5,864,394	01/26/1999	Jordan III, et al.	356	237	09/29/1995
	A2	5,808,735	09/15/1998	Lee, et al.	356	237	11/26/1996
	A3	5,186,718	02/16/1993	Tepman, et al.	29	25.01	04/15/1991
	A4	4,989,973	02/05/1991	Noso, et al.	356	239	10/02/1989
	A5	4,626,101	12/02/1986	Ogawa, et al.	356	237	11/26/1984
BO	A6						
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Foreign Patent Documents

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	B2	1 030 173 A1	08/23/2000	EP	G01N	21/89	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Date Considered

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SUPPLEMENTAL LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS CITED BY APPLICANT		Applicant Hunter	Confirmation N Unknown
(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date 10/06/2000	Group 2877
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U.S. Patent Documents

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Foreign Patent Documents

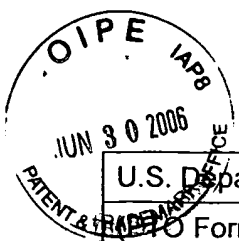
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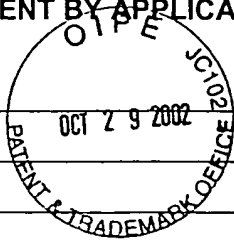
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3/5	C1	International Search Report for PCT/US01/31079, dated June 24, 2002
	C2	
	C3	

Examiner *Zacian* *SL* Date Considered *7/24/03*

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U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office (PTO Form 1449 modified)		Docket No. AMAT/3083.P6/FET/ FET/DV	Serial No. 09/684,856
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Applicant Hunter	Confirmation No.: None
(Use several sheets if necessary)		Filing Date October 6, 2000	Group 2877
Examiner Unknown			

**U.S. Patent Documents**

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Issue Date	Applicant(s) Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
38	A1	6,236,903	05/22/01	Kim, et al.	700	121	09/25/98
	A2	6,020,957	02/01/00	Rosengaus, et al.	356	237.4	04/30/98
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*Examiner Initial		Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.
38	C1	International Search Report for PCT/US01/42483, dated October 14, 2002
	C2	
	C3	

Examiner <i>Jacobs</i>	Date Considered 7/24/03
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U.S. Patent Documents

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38	A1	5,646,725	Jul 8, 1997	Hagiwara	356	237	Dec 19, 1995
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	A5						
	A6						
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	A8						
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	A10						
	A11						
	A12						
	A13						

Foreign Patent Documents

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							YES	NO
38	B1	0 821 085 A1	Jan 28, 1998	EP	C30B	31/10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38	B2	0 398 781 A3	Nov 22, 1990	EP	G01N	21/88	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
38	B3	09196859 (Abstract only)	July 7, 1997	JP	G01N	21/88	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	B4						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	B5						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER ART

*Examiner Initial		Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.
38	C1	International Search Report for PCT/US01/31426, dated November 27, 2002
38	C2	International Search Report for PCT/US01/31094, dated November 27, 2002
	C3	

Examiner

Date Considered

7/24/03

*EXAMINER initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.